

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 10000

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MX

SUBJECT: FY 1976 AND FY 1975 MILITARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS

REF STATE 258167

IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 5 OF REF, FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED:
(ANSWERS KEYED TO SUBPARAGRAPHS).

A. MEXICO HAS NOT USED FMSCR IN PAST AND IT DOES NOT
APPEAR THEY WILL USE IT IN NEAR FUTURE. GOM
TRADITIONALLY HAS ESCHEWED BILATERAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS (THEY WILLINGLY ACCEPT GRANT AID TRAINING, BUT
ONLY UNDER PUBLIC GUISE OF SCHOLARSHIPS). PRIMARY
REASON BEHIND THIS STANCE IS DETERMINATION REMAIN FREE
OF ANY CONCEIVEABLE OUTSIDE INFLUENCE WHICH MIGHT ACCRUE AS
RESULT OF SUCH PROGRAMS. OCCASIONALLY, WHEN FACED WITH
FUNDING DIFFICULTIES, ACTION OFFICERS OF VARIOUS PROJECTS
HAVE BECOME INTERESTED IN FMSCR. INVARIABLY, WHEN
ACTION OFFICERS PRESENT IDEA TO DECISION MAKING
LEVEL, IT IS NOT FAVORABLY RECEIVED, OFTEN KILLING
PROGRAM OR, AT MINIMUM, DELAYING IT UNTIL FOLLOWING
YEAR WHEN NEW FUNDS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE. MEXICO PREFERS
DIRECT CASE PURCHASES.

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B. THERE WILL BE NO MAJOR CHANGE IN SIZE OF MX ARMED FORCES WITHIN FORESEEABLE FUTURE, HOWEVER, REALIZATION OF PRESENT PLANS FOR LIMITED MODERNIZATION OF FORCES WILL PERMIT MODESTLY INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SAP) SHOULD INCLUDE FMSCR FOR MEXICO AT LEVEL PROPOSED WITHOUT OBLIGATING THAT CREDIT TO ANY SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT. THIS WOULD ALLOW SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY IN PROGRAM TO PERMIT GOM REACT TO PURCHASE OPPORTUNITIES AS THEY EMERGE, SHOULD GOM DESIRE TO USE PROGRAM. GOM IDENTIFIED MAJOR ITEMS OF PROCUREMENT IN PRIORITY ORDER ARE: AIRCRAFT, ARMORED VEHICLES, CREW SERVED INFANTRY WEAPONS, AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

C. PROVISION OF CREDIT DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY SUPPORT MILITARY REQUIREMENT DERIVED FROM US-APPROVED FORCE GOAL. JSOP IDENTIFIES CERTAIN RECOMMENDED OBJECTIVE FORCE LEVELS ARE INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN INTERNAL SECURITY WITHOUT INTERFERING WITH MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. BY ASSISTING IN ATTAINMENT OF THESE OBJECTIVES, US CAN MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEXICAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, WHILE EMPHASIZING COMMON GOALS AND ENCOURAGING SUPPORT OF US NATIONAL OBJECTIVES.

D. THERE ARE DEFINITE STRATEGIC INTERESTS THAT JUSTIFY PROVISION OF FMSCR. MEXICO BORDERS US AND FLANKS MARITIME LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS (LOC) BETWEEN US PORTS AND PANAMA CANAL. MEXICO AND US ARE CLOSELY LINKED ECONOMICALLY. GOOD HIGHWAY SYSTEM, FAIRLY EXTENSIVE RAILROAD NETWORK, AND AVIATION FACILITIES CONNECT US TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS TO PROVIDE NUMEROUS LOC'S ACROSS BORDER AND BETWEEN US AND CENTRAL AMERICA. MEXICO IS AN IMPORTANT PRODUCER OF SEVERAL STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT MATERIALS. IT ALSO HAS LARGE QUANTITIES OF UNTAPPED DEFENSE-RELATED NATURAL RESOURCES. MEXICO'S PROXIMITY TO US BORDER REQUIRES SPECIAL COMMENT. MEXICAN MILITARY IS MOST STABLE ELEMENT IN SOCIETY AND FAVORABLY ORIENTED TO US. THIS IS IN LARGE MEASURE RESULT OF LONG TRADITION OF TRAINING BASED ON US MODEL OR ACTUALLY CARRIED OUT UNDER US AUSPICES. MEXICAN MILITARY IS CURRENTLY US'S
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BEST INSURANCE OF SECURE BORDER WITHOUT COMMITTING US ASSETS.

E. MEXICO IS NOT GRANT MATERIAL RECIPIENT SO THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP THERE. GRANT AID TRAINING IS ACCEPTED BY MEXICO, BUT ONLY WITH RESERVATIONS. GOM IS VERY SENSITIVE TO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE THAT THERE IS UNDUE US INTERFERENCE OR INFLUENCE. HOWEVER, SINCE FMSCR HAS NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY USED, THERE IS

AGAIN NO DIRECT RELATION. IT CAN ONLY BE ASSUMED THAT MEXICO, WITH US GUIDANCE, WOULD USE US TRAINING TO COMPLEMENT PURCHASE OF HARDWARE.

F. SEE SUBPARAGRAPH D ABOVE.

G. AT PRESENT TIME AND WITH CURRENT LEVELS, CREDIT SALES WOULD NOT AFFECT REGIONAL ARMS BALANCE. OVER PROLONGED PERIOD, IF ONE COUNTRY USED CREDIT AND OTHERS DID NOT, IT MIGHT IMPROVE CAPABILITY OF ONE NATION MORE THAN OTHERS. THAT IS ASSUMING ASSOCIATED TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE KEPT PACE WITH PURCHASES. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN AN OVERWHELMING CAPABILITY WITH CURRENT CREDIT LEVEL. LEVEL FOR MEXICO WOULD ALLOW FOR ANNUAL PURCHASE OF ONE MODERATELY SOPHISTICATED JET FIGHTER WITH SUPPORT. THIS MAKES LEVEL SLIGHTLY UNREALISTIC AND MAY BE ANOTHER REASON WHY IT HAS NOT BEEN USED BY MEXICO IN PAST.

H. FINANCIALLY, THERE IS NOT OVERWHELMING NEED. GOM HAS OR CAN OBTAIN ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR MORE MODERN ARMED FORCES. IT IS MORE MATTER OF PRIORITIES. SINCE THERE IS NO EXTERNAL THREAT AND BECAUSE MEXICO CAN ESSENTIALLY LIVE UNDER PROTECTION OF US, IF DESIRED, THERE IS AGAIN NO URGENT NEED. ALSO, AS POINTED OUT EARLIER, GOM IS WILLING TO DO WITHOUT RATHER THAN TO SUBMIT THEMSELVES TO PROGRAM WHEREBY THEY MIGHT BE DEPENDENT ON ANOTHER COUNTRY OR SUBJECT TO INTERFERENCE. IN TERMS OF MEETING GOM COMMITMENTS TO INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE AGREEMENTS, THERE IS NEED FOR CREDIT. ARMED FORCES OF MEXICO REQUIRES MODERNIZATION. IF MODERNIZATION DOES NOT OCCUR SOON, THERE WILL BE A DAMAGING REDUCTION IN CAPABILITY. RESTORATION OF CAPABILITY WILL REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL

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TIALLY GREATER FUNDING.

I. NO. AGAIN AMOUNT IS RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT.

J. NONE. AT PROPOSED LEVEL OF CREDIT FOR FY 76, THERE WOULD BE NO RELEVANCE TO THIRD COUNTRY PURCHASES. GOM IS MAKING THIRD COUNTRY PURCHASES AS EVIDENCED BY RECENT PURCHASES FROM UK, ISRAEL, FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND. MEXICAN PURCHASES ARE NOT NECESSARILY BASED ON COMPARATIVE PRICES OR RELATED ITEMS SUCH AS AVAILABILITY, CREDIT TERMS, DELIVERY LEAD TIMES AND SUPPORT COSTS. THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS OF PAYOFFS SO THAT EVEN IF US PROVIDES THE BEST OFFER, PURCHASE MAY BE MADE FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY. THERE HAVE BEEN NO INDICATIONS OF ANY INTEREST IN TURNING TO SOCIALIST BLOC SOURCES OF SUPPLY AND

THERE ARE NOT APPARENT SECURITY FACTORS WHICH COULD CAUSE US
CONCERN IN PRESENT PATTERN OF MEXICAN ARMS PRUCHASES,
ALTHOUGH THE US MAY ON OCCASION LOSE COMMERCIAL
OPPORTUNITY.
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